



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
**730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476**  
**Phone: 781-316-3000**

**webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us**

## **Conservation Commission Minutes 02/25/2010**

Arlington Conservation Commission  
Minutes  
February 25, 2010

Mr. Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. in the second floor conference room of the Town Hall Annex.

Present were Nathaniel Stevens, Ezra Benjamin, David White, William O'Rourke, Charles Tirone, and Ellen Reed of the Commission and Brian Thomas, Associate Commission member. Catherine Garnett of the Commission was not in attendance. Also in attendance was John McKenna of the Kelwyn Manor Park Association.

7:45 p.m. – Commission Business

Reed/O'Rourke moved to approve the 2/4 **meeting minutes** as amended; motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Reed reported that small sections of **The Walking Book** still need to be edited and when the draft is completed, printing options will be further developed.

Mr. White will forward information to Ms. Beckwith on a maintenance repair for the **copier** which he donated to the Conservation Office a few years ago.

Mr. Stevens distributed a clarification on the **Open Meeting rules**.

Mr. White Stevens conveyed the request from Michele Hessler of the **Cemetery Commission** regarding answers to outstanding questions on having cremains within wetland resource areas. Beyond the general reply that it is desirable that biodegradable materials are used with cremains in wetlands, no further detailed information has been found.

Ms. Beckwith listed **springtime events** in the agenda that the Commission would like to organize to attend, participate in or consider. Ms. Beckwith will forward this information via email to the board for further coordination.

8pm – **Notice of Intent** – Kelwyn Manor Park, 60 Spy Pond Parkway, control of land-based phragmites

Mr. McKenna presented the project to remove the large stand of phragmites at the shoreline of the park. The program has been designed by Aquatic Control Technology who has performed other work of this nature on Spy Pond, as well as the first project to remove the water-based plants.

The Commission received the response from the Natural Heritage program required only that a qualified plant biologist survey the immediate area of the treatment, at the time of the treatment in order to look for the Engleman's sedge.

Mr. McKenna reported on the winter cutting of the dead plants, which took 18 man hours (by volunteers of the Park Association) using metal shovels slid across the surface of the ice, to remove only 1/3 to 1/2 of the stand in the water, while the pond was frozen. Ice conditions were not ideal as the ice is not firm amongst the plants. The cut plant material was hauled on tarps to the park, where they will await pick up by the DPW. The rest of the cutting project is looking questionable with the warm rain, but there is another month of winter left.

Mr. McKenna asked if they could have permission to cut paths through the large stand to haul the plants to shore on a more direct path. Ms. Beckwith recommended two paths through the middle with narrow width, if possible made by pushing through amongst the standing reeds.

Ms. Reed emphasized that a planting plan needs to be developed for this substantial area of wetland shoreline.

Ms. Beckwith announced that the Vision 2020 Spy Pond committee is holding a seminar with Francis Clark on shoreline planting on 3/21, 2:30-5pm at the Robbins Library Community Room. This information would be very helpful to this planting plan.

Ms. Reed also expressed concern over news that the EPA has now stated that glyphosate has some health related effects, such as kidney function.

With the permission of the applicant, the Commission will voted unanimously to continue the hearing to 4/1 at 8pm, a date after the seminar by Francis Clark. The hearing will continue on 4/1 at 8pm.

8:15pm – **Notice of Intent** – Lot C Coolidge Rd, new house

The applicant requested to continue the hearing in order to provide additional information. White/O'Rourke moved to continued the hearing to 3/4 at 8:15pm; motion passed unanimously.

Commission Business (cont.)

Ms. Beckwith requested that the Commission approved the payment of \$60 annual dues to the **Mystic River Watershed Association**. Reed/Benjamin moved to approve the payment; motioned passed unanimously.

Mr. White distributed the 2009 Annual Report for **Great Meadows**. He also announced that there is a continued effort to conduct an upland restoration project there.

Ms. Beckwith reviewed the **Winchester Flood control projects FEIR** and drafted a review. She forwarded the document disk to Mr. O'Rourke. The comments are due to MEPA by 3/26/10. She reported that the complete scenario will result in a 5 inch drop in the 100 year floodplain at the mouth of the Alewife. The mitigations include Cradock locks, the Mid-lakes dam and Scalley dam (at Horn Pond in Woburn) but not a fourth pump at the Earhardt dam. The projects are many and expensive and still do not provide flood relief for the worst-affected neighborhood in Winchester, at Brookside Ave. The ACOE is now not providing funds for the stream dredging project as it does not meet their cost-benefit criteria, but this decision was balanced with the impact to DCR park use changes. The FEIR includes flood profiles for the stepped phasing of the work to show that no increase in the flood elevations will occur during this long process. The FEMA flood maps will also be sequentially modified for each step of the flood relief projects along the way.

Ms. Beckwith received a request for an Extension to the aquatic weed control permit for **Hills Pond** in Menotomy Rocks Park. The new head of the Friends of Menotomy Rocks park is Judy Weinberg. Ms. Beckwith will contact her to organize this application.

Meeting adjourned at 9pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Corinna Beckwith  
Commission Administrator